

there are certain existing conditions, in our small circle on the Hill, that are clearly out of harmony with this hopeful view. Time was, when the students of the three departments looked forward with considerable interest, and even with some degree of enthusiasm, to our monthly lectures; not only because they provided a welcome break in the monotony of ordinary life on the Hill, but because they placed the student in direct contact with the fresh and vigorous thought of gentlemen of marked ability and acknowledged scholarship from the outside world, and also afforded that opportunity for relaxation and harmless enjoyment so essential to a normal condition of mind. In those historic days the Academy Hall of the old College was usually crowded with an eager appreciative audience. Note books and pencils were in demand; the lecturer's best thoughts were captured and discussed, and the occasion generally made interesting and educative. The students who habitually absented themselves from these gatherings were few in number, and were regarded by their fellow students as peculiar, and at once set down as essentially lacking in literary taste. In those days too the Academy Lyceum was a flourishing organization but its members were never guilty of the discourtesy of holding their regular meetings on the evening of the monthly lecture. The old College was a few yards nearer the Ladies' Seminary than the present one, and perhaps this proximity may account for the fact that the latter institution was always well represented on such occasions, not only by the young ladies themselves, but their teachers. The phenomenon of five Seminar-ians at a lecture would then have called for something more than passing comment, but "times have changed and sadly too." Evidently there was a better understanding between the students of the three departments in those good old days than at present; there was a unity and sympathy among them which students of to-day might do well to emulate. Whether the

meagre attendance at some of our recent lectures is to be explained wholly on this ground or not we will not presume to say. There may be other elements in the problem, too subtle for masculine comprehension; but we will not seek for causes. The fact concerns us most. Experience has taught the members of THE ATHENÆUM that they cannot rely on the patronage of the other societies on the Hill in maintaining a course of lecture. What the consequences of this want of mutual support may be, might be difficult to determine. It would be sad if a spirit of retaliation and the discontinuance of an institution that has afforded so much instruction and enjoyment as this lecture course were among its possible products.

THE Temperance question has once more been brought prominently before the students by the establishment of a new temperance organization in the village, of which a large number of the young men on the Hill have recently become members. Some years ago a society existed in connection with these institutions exclusively for the benefit of students: but like many societies of the same character it came to a sudden and inglorious end, not however, from inconsistency among its members, but rather from a want of unanimity on a question of some considerable importance. Since that time no systematic effort has been made to cultivate temperance principles among the students. Perhaps the general good conduct of the students themselves in this particular may have argued that no apprehension need be felt. It is true that in no college in the province is sobriety more uniform and marked than in Acadia; but this is due, in some measure, to our remoteness from large centres, to the decided policy of those in authority, and to the moral restraints that belong to our peculiar associations. These advantages are not to be ignored. They are so many